

Draft Issue Statements

1. Evaluate the potential for adding additional generation using existing infrastructure, modifying facilities to increase storage and associated generation, and changing operation to provide spinning reserve (1, 2, and 14).
2. Improve operations through use of real-time watershed hydrologic projections rather than annual projections. Coordinate with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data gathering (3, 12).
3. Optimize operation of Oroville Facilities through coordination with other water storage facilities. Consider operational constraints, fisheries needs (e.g., minimum instream flow release requirements, prevention of salmon and steelhead straying, and bass fishery and spawning activities in the afterbay), water quality (e.g., water temperatures required for holding and rearing of salmon and steelhead in the low flow section and downstream of Thermalito Afterbay), and lake level requirements (e.g., minimum emergency storage and recreation). Use support system models to evaluate different flow regimes with historic and real-time information. Factors to be considered include timing, magnitude and duration of flows, pumpback scheduling and maintenance scheduling, and hatchery operations (5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 25, 26 28, 32 and 33)
4. Impact of flood releases on Lake Oroville dam and downstream facilities including downstream levee stability and potential for ameliorating downstream flooding through coordinated releases with other water storage facilities. Consider past floods, improvements in channel carrying capacities, need for more storage (e.g., installing Obermeyer gates on the emergency spillway ogee), operational changes, early warning system for downstream releases, and updating of flood operation manual (11, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 47, 51, 52 and 53).
5. Effect of ramping rates on downstream facilities including power generation, water temperatures, and fish (10).
6. Effect of the project including discharge (magnitude, frequency and timing) and ramping rates and the altered stream hydrology on substrate scour, mobilization of sediments, turbidity levels, and riparian vegetation in the low flow reach and downstream of the Afterbay (29, 30, 36, 41 and 42).
7. Effect of reservoir siltation and sediments on project operations (9, 27 and 46).
8. Effect of power pricing schedule on local economy (16).
9. Effect of future water demands on project operations including power generation, lake levels and downstream flows. Consider sale of existing water allotments to downstream users (18 and 20).

10. Effect of tires in Parrish Cove and stakes used to hold down recycled Christmas trees on public safety (54 and 55).
11. Evaluate operational and engineering alternatives including selective withdrawal from Lake Oroville to meet downstream temperature requirements (15 and 43).
12. Evaluate operational and engineering alternatives to prevent interbreeding of fall and spring-run Chinook salmon in the low flow section of the Feather River (e.g., migration barrier and/or flow and temperature changes) (24).
13. Evaluate operational alternatives that balance and maintain acceptable water quality standards under all operational plans and conditions (37).